

Water basin



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

After walking around the museum for a while, I saw a lot of unbelievable works of art. I ultimately decided to do this paper on something Chinese because it was fresh in my mind and I don't know anything about Japanese art yet. And as soon as I walked into Freer gallery 14, I saw this bronze bowl that I was almost certain I knew what it was for. Turns out I was wrong, but after I got a closer look, I figured it out. At first I thought it was a ritual bronze vessel from the Shang Dynasty, then I realized it looks a lot more like Archer Sings ritual bronze than any vessels we looked at.

And sure enough, it was a ritual bronze with inscriptions from the Chou Dynasty. So it was actually a ritual water basin called Jinn from the Eastern Chou Dynasty made from bronze. I thought it was a good size with maybe two feet or more in diameter and maybe a foot and a half to two feet in height. The outside was very decorative all around and there were four handles that looked like monkeys with really large tongues.

They may have been dragons or maybe even monsters like the "taotie designs" we learned about in class that was in one of the bronze vessels in the Shang Dynasty. I'm not an expert so I don't know what it is, but it looks like it had some purpose. It reminded me of the Servant Capital with the lion in all four directions so maybe this is symbolizing the spread of their own culture or religion. There were rings around two of the handles that were on opposite sides and the other two did not have them and I don't even have a guess for why that is.

Looking inside of the Jinn was weird, after what I learned in class about Shang's lengthy inscriptions in their bronzes and after reading the title that

said " with inscription", I was expecting to see a plethora of writing. Instead I only saw like a line of maybe 8 characters of writing. I don't know if that's because of maybe it got worn out, or this is a different type of bronze than the lengthy inscriptions like the one castes by Archer Jinn, or maybe this guy just had nothing to write about.